GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3039
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2015
Export Target for Textiles
S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has raised the annual export target for textiles from $ 36 billion to $ 43 billion as part of the plan to leverage the sharp depreciation of rupee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering a proposal to allow women to work in night shifts in garment units by amending the laws as is being done in the Information Technology sector;

(d) if so, whether the Government had made a similar move in 2012 to facilitate the night shifts for women in garment making units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): The Government has raised the annual export target for textiles from US $ 36 billion in 2013-14, US $ 45 billion in 2014-15 and US$ 47.5 billion in 2015-16, keeping in view likely growth in textiles exports and international demand.

(c): Yes, Madam. The Government is contemplating to amend the provisions contained in Section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948, related to women for working in night shifts by substituting following:-
"66. The provisions of this Chapter shall, in their application to women in factories be supplemented by the following further restrictions, namely:-
(i) no exemption from the provisions of section 54 may be granted in respect of any women;
(ii) there shall be no change of shifts except after a weekly holiday or any other holiday; and
(iii) no woman shall be required or allowed to work in any factory except between the hours of 6 A.M. and 7. P.M:

"Provided that where the State Government or any person, authorized by it in this behalf, is satisfied that adequate safeguards exist in a factory as regards occupational safety and health, provision of shelter, rest rooms, lunch rooms, night crÃ¨ches and ladies' toilets, equal opportunity for women workers, adequate protection of their dignity, honour and safety, protection from sexual harassment, and their transportation from the factory premises to the door step of their residence, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, after due consultation with, and obtaining the consent of, the women workers, workers, the employer, representative organization of the employer and representative organisation of workers of the concerned factory, allow women to work between 7.00 P.M. and 6.00 A.M. in such factory subject to such conditions as may be specified therein:

Provided further that no such permission shall be granted to woman worker during a period of sixteen weeks before and after her childbirth, of which at least eight weeks shall be before the expected childbirth, and for such additional period, if any, as specified in the medical certificate stating that it is necessary for the health of the woman worker or her child:

Provided also that the restriction contained in the preceding proviso may be relaxed at the express request of a woman worker on the basis of the medical certificate stating that neither her health nor that of her child will be endangered."

(d) & (e): No, Madam.
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